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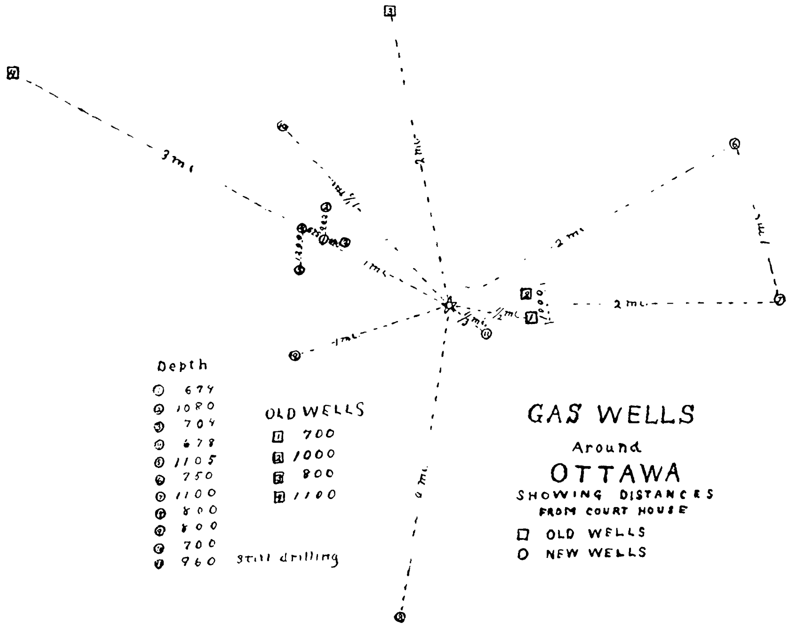
THE OTTAWA GAS-WELLS.

By J. A. Yates, Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan.

Read before the Academy, at Iola, December 31, 1901.

IN the year 1887 a company was organized in Ottawa for the purpose of prospecting for gas, oil, or anything of value beneath the soil. I. N. Boycourt was elected president. Four wells were drilled, as shown on the map. In Nos. 1 and 3 gas was found in considerable quantity; but having inexperienced workmen employed, and also being a prospect, the gas-sand was reached before the well was properly cased, and it filled with salt water. From well No. 3 bubbles of gas have continued to escape to the present time. The amount of gas found was considered too small for piping, the prospect was considered a failure, and the company decided to abandon the work.

In the year 1898 a company was organized for the same purpose as the former company, with Mr. H. L. T. Skinner president, who, with his characteristic enery and ability, has kept the drill going almost ever since, and they are at present drilling the eleventh well. The log of well No. 2 is given and also the partial log of well No. 11. The elevation of our court-house above the sea-level is about 700 feet. The average depth of all the wells is about 720 feet below the eleva-



tion—that is, twenty feet below sea-level, when the topography of the county is considered.

Gas and other products have been found in the wells as shown in the table. The company, hoping to strike a stronger flow of gas than that found in any of the wells, has continued to pull the casing and hunt for "a great gusher." A well yielding 50,000 cubic feet per day is generally considered worth casing and piping. A reference to the table will show that some of the wells reached that amount.

No. 1 in the new series was also a prospect well, the company not having access to the log of the former wells. The gas-sand was reached without properly casing out the salt water, and consequently the well had to be abandoned. The drill used is the ordinary churn drill, and the measurements made on the rope with a steel tape. The logs of the different wells show only slight variations in stratigraphy when the topographical differences are considered. Gas continues to bubble from some of the larger wells. The amount of gas as shown in the table was estimated from measurements made with an ordinary gas-meter.

No. of well.	Depth of well.	Depth gas-sands.	Thickness of gas-sands.	Estimated flow of gas.	Oil.	Depth of salt.
1	674	423 664.5	52 57	5,000 50,000	....	323 628
2	1,080	425 665 803 1,060	50 58 27 15	12,000 25,000 Very little. "	665, some oil.	323 .... 628 1,080
3	704	424 666	50 60	Very little. "	666, 3 barrels per day.	
4	678.5	424 665	35 13.5	No gas. 10,000	665, 2 gallons, very black and heavy.	
5	1,105	420 672 802 1,060 1,105	9 40 10 12 Salt water	No gas. 50,000 No gas. " stopped work.	Coal, Seam 1 foot thick at 680—semi-anthracite.	
6 7 8 9 10 11	750 1,100 800 800 700 *960	No gas worth piping.				

*Still drilling.

LOG OF WELL No. 2.

Formation.	Top.	Bottom.	Formation.	Top.	Bottom.
	ft.	ft.		ft.	ft.
Soil	5	5	White slate	5	598
Limestone	12	17	Limestone	16	614
Slate	5	22	Slate	8	622
Limestone	43	65	Limestone	18	640
White slate	146	211	Slate and shells	15	655
Limestone	21	232	White slate	10	665
Slate	20	252	Gas-sand*	58	723
Limestone	6	258	Slate and sand	12	735
Slate	60	318	Black slate	20	755
Limestone	27	345	White slate†	48	803
Shale	5	350	Sand	15	818
Limestone	31	381	Slate and shells	27	845
Shale	3	384	Sand	8	853
Limestone and shells	15	399	Slate and shells	82	935
White slate	37	436	Sand	10	945
Gas-sand	54	490	Slate	10	955
Slate	25	515	Sand	37	992
Sandy slate	53	568	Black slate	78	1,070
Limestone	15	583	Salt and water	10	1,080
Black slate	10	593			

*Good gas-sand from 670 to 680 feet; water at 715 feet.

†Water.